WSDOT'S GEO-DATA DISTRIBUTION WEB SITE

By Michelle Blake

WSDOT's Geo-Data Distribution Web Site:
How can we serve you better?

At the Washington State Department of Transportation we are working to provide local government groups easier access to transportation-related GIS data. WSDOT hosts an online geo-data distribution site from which GIS data and metadata (descriptive reports about the data) can be browsed and downloaded:

http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/gis/GeoDataCatalog/

How can I use this resource?
On this site, GIS data sets are listed by name and grouped into general subject areas like transportation, environmental, and so forth. Clicking a data set's name opens a descriptive report, which, among other things, tells customers:

Who created the data and how
What the data's accuracy is
What the attributes mean and who defined them
What time period the data reflects
How often the data is revised.

A data set's sample map display, shown relative to Washington state's county boundaries, can be opened via the view link. Clicking a download link on the web site initiates an FTP transfer of a data set's self-extracting zip file. Each of these "exe" download files includes a metadata report along with the ESRI formatted GIS data. The web site also provides WSDOT data steward contact information, geography related news items, and a growing list of links to other state agency GIS web sites.

What about the types of data I need?
Our site is a work in progress. Ultimately, we would like to provide the kinds of data and information that can streamline our transportation partners' work. To accomplish this goal, we would appreciate your comments, guidance, and suggestions. Please contact WSDOT's GIS Data Administrator, Michelle Blake (360-705-7797 or BlakeM@wsdot.wa.gov), to discuss your transportation-related GIS data needs.

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